Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad; Industrial Toxicological Research Institute (ITRC), Lucknow and National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad.

(c) and (d) Before approving import of GM food stuffs, safety information generated on these food stuff is examined by the GEAC through a group of experts. All genetically modified food is tested for toxicity and allergenicity prior to its approval for human consumption. As of date the GEAC has not approved import of any food stuff containing genetically modified substance.

National Environmental Awards

3202. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Environmental Awards entitled Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar for the years 1998 and 1999 were conferred in June 2003 only, and the names of awardees for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002, are still to be decided; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this inordinate delay in finalizing the names and what steps are being taken to see that Awards for the preceding years are conferred immediately in the following years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) As a normal practice, the conferment of the awards takes place on a day connected with the environment. The process for finalization of awardees as well as conferment of Awards has since been streamlined.

Environmental pollution

3203. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that environmental pollution is one of the greatest health and life hazards of today;

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware that problem assumes different forms of air pollution, water pollution, food pollution and noise pollution; and